



HOUSE BILL 15: Educ. Software/SWD Tuition

2015-2016 General Assembly

Committee:	House Appropriations	Date:	September 29, 2015
Introduced by:	Reps. Pendleton, Stam, Yarborough	Prepared by:	Kara McCraw
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition		Committee Counsel
	H15-CSTC-65		

SUMMARY: *The PCS for HB 15 would remove the prior contents of the bill and make the following changes:*

- *Authorize the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to use appropriated funds to enter into a statewide cooperative purchasing agreement to provide office productivity software for public schools and to provide technical support and professional development on the use of the software.*
- *Authorize the State Education Assistance Authority (SEAA) to disburse tuition funds for scholarships for students with disabilities through scholarship endorsements of funds directly to schools or through reimbursements to parents for tuition paid.*

CURRENT LAW: S.L. 2015-241, Sec. 11.11.(a) modifies the process for distribution of tuition for scholarships for students with disabilities to allow the State Education Assistance Authority (SEAA) to remit twice a year the tuition scholarship funds for endorsement by the student's parent or guardian for deposit into the account of the school.

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1: Would authorize DPI to use funds appropriated for the 2015-16 fiscal year and subsequent fiscal years to:

- Enter into a statewide cooperative purchasing agreement to provide office productivity software for students, teachers, and other staff of North Carolina public schools, including charter schools.
- Provide technical support and professional development on the use of the software.

Section 2: Would amend the process for tuition endorsements and reimbursements for scholarships for students with disabilities in one of two ways based on the criteria satisfied by the school.

- Scholarship endorsement for tuition. – The SEAA would remit scholarship funds for endorsement by the student's parent or guardian at least twice a year for tuition to attend a nonpublic school that meets the criteria to receive funds for Opportunity Scholarships. The scholarship funds would be restrictively endorsed for deposit into the account of the school.
- Reimbursement for tuition. – The SEAA would reimburse, no sooner than the midpoint of the semester, a parent or guardian for documented tuition paid for an eligible student who enrolls in one of the following:
 - A North Carolina public school other than the public school to which that student has been assigned in the local school administrative unit where the student is domiciled.
 - A nonpublic school that does not participate in the Opportunity Scholarship program.

An enrollment of less than 75 days of the semester will be subject to a pro rata reimbursement.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The PCS for HB 15 would become effective July 1, 2015. Section 2 would apply to scholarships awarded for the 2015-2016 school year and each subsequent school year.

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